

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, DECEMBER 1978

INQUIRIES

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MAIN FEATURES

- Industrial dispute statistics for December 1978 show that there were 126 industrial disputes, 89,100 workers involved and 114,700 working days lost.
- A one-day stoppage in Queensland by employees in various industries accounted for more than one-third of all working days lost during the month. Other main disputes involved air transport ground staff in all States and electricity and gas generation employees in Western Australia.
- 2.1 million working days and an estimated \$78.4 million in wages were lost in 1978.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly bulletin *Industrial Disputes* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1.

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages

occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual figures.

Symbols and other usages

- Nil or less than half the final digit shown
- .. Not applicable
- p Preliminary — figure subject to revision.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

| Period | Number of disputes | | Workers involved ('000) | | Working days lost | | Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000) |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Beginning in month | Total (a) | Beginning in month | Total (a) | Number (a) ('000) | Average days per worker involved (b) | |
| 1976 | .. | 2,055 | .. | 2,189.9 | 3,799.2 | 1.7 | 114,552 |
| 1977 | .. | 2,090 | .. | 596.2 | 1,654.8 | 2.8 | 59,674 |
| 1978 p | .. | 2,277 | .. | 1,075.6 | 2,130.8 | 2.0 | 78,404 |
| 1977 — | | | | | | | |
| November | 145 | 176 | 33.4 | 54.2 | 88.9 | 1.6 | 3,253 |
| December | 99 | 116 | 12.5 | 15.2 | 23.1 | 1.5 | 936 |
| 1978 — | | | | | | | |
| January | 118 | 118 | 14.9 | 14.9 | 30.5 | 2.1 | 1,237 |
| February | 183 | 192 | 34.0 | 35.6 | 69.7 | 2.0 | 2,640 |
| March | 156 | 183 | 32.1 | 39.3 | 83.5 | 2.1 | 3,286 |
| April | 184 | 208 | 102.1 | 110.0 | 227.5 | 2.1 | 8,078 |
| May | 225 | 249 | 346.9 | 368.9 | 413.6 | 1.1 | 14,156 |
| June | 178 | 200 | 57.3 | 60.4 | 150.6 | 2.5 | 6,253 |
| July | 213 | 233 | 68.1 | 79.5 | 159.9 | 2.0 | 6,290 |
| August | 234 | 256 | 142.4 | 155.9 | 250.2 | 1.6 | 9,498 |
| September | 237 | 289 | 84.4 | 101.0 | 252.8 | 2.5 | 8,859 |
| October p | 241 | 287 | 58.9 | 75.7 | 207.0 | 2.7 | 7,672 |
| November p | 203 | 248 | 53.3 | 72.8 | 170.7 | 2.3 | 6,184 |
| December p | 105 | 126 | 81.2 | 89.1 | 114.7 | 1.3 | 4,253 |

(a) Refers to all disputes — perative and workers involved in the period. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

| Period | Manufacturing | | | | Constru- ction | Transport and storage; communication | | Other industries (b) | All industries |
|------------|---------------|-------|---|-------|-------------------|--|-------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | Mining | | Metal products, machinery and equipment | | | Steve- doring services | Other | | |
| | Coal | Other | | Other | | | | | |
| 1976 | 159.1 | 215.0 | 775.0 | 856.5 | 535.8 | 37.1 | 388.0 | 832.6 | 3,799.2 |
| 1977 | 102.8 | 170.9 | 204.4 | 455.7 | 215.2 | 39.9 | 172.6 | 293.3 | 1,654.8 |
| 1978 p | 142.3 | 125.1 | 732.1 | 490.2 | 134.1 | 122.9 | 166.9 | 217.2 | 2,130.8 |
| 1977 - | | | | | | | | | |
| November | 7.1 | 11.8 | 18.3 | 30.6 | 3.9 | 0.5 | 13.1 | 3.6 | 88.9 |
| December | 2.5 | 3.3 | 2.1 | 10.5 | 1.8 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 23.1 |
| 1978 - | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 2.7 | 4.0 | 2.7 | 9.1 | 7.4 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 2.3 | 30.5 |
| February | 8.9 | 4.2 | 12.7 | 20.9 | 6.8 | 0.8 | 7.3 | 8.1 | 69.7 |
| March | 11.6 | 8.1 | 15.9 | 13.2 | 6.2 | 4.7 | 16.4 | 7.4 | 83.5 |
| April | 6.6 | 15.0 | 65.9 | 84.0 | 2.0 | 39.7 | 9.7 | 4.8 | 227.5 |
| May | 7.4 | 14.0 | 288.6 | 32.6 | 20.0 | 14.1 | 13.5 | 23.5 | 413.6 |
| June | 36.4 | 13.6 | 24.0 | 17.4 | 14.2 | 3.7 | 26.8 | 14.5 | 150.6 |
| July | 19.0 | 15.3 | 40.1 | 26.6 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 9.5 | 38.2 | 159.9 |
| August | 13.5 | 24.4 | 111.6 | 40.8 | 24.0 | 6.2 | 16.9 | 8.8 | 250.2 |
| September | 15.1 | 1.8 | 48.3 | 24.0 | 14.7 | 38.9 | 24.0 | 35.9 | 252.8 |
| October p | 10.4 | 16.1 | 43.2 | 27.8 | 12.9 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 20.4 | 207.0 |
| November p | 4.4 | 6.1 | 46.1 | 56.1 | 8.3 | 4.7 | 6.2 | 38.8 | 170.7 |
| December p | 6.4 | 2.3 | 33.0 | 17.7 | 3.9 | 4.7 | 32.1 | 14.6 | 114.7 |

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

| Period | N.S.W. | Vic. | Qld | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | Aust. (b) |
|------------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----------|
| 1976 | 1,456.5 | 1,420.0 | 426.0 | 151.8 | 252.1 | 62.2 | 3,799.2 |
| 1977 | 538.2 | 586.1 | 240.8 | 30.6 | 220.5 | 26.7 | 1,654.8 |
| 1978 p | 970.8 | 468.1 | 360.3 | 79.1 | 197.9 | 35.4 | 2,130.8 |
| 1977 - | | | | | | | |
| November | 39.0 | 21.0 | 9.1 | 1.1 | 17.3 | 0.6 | 88.9 |
| December | 10.3 | 4.8 | 2.9 | 0.2 | 4.7 | - | 23.1 |
| 1978 - | | | | | | | |
| January | 9.3 | 8.9 | 4.4 | 2.2 | 5.3 | 0.1 | 30.5 |
| February | 30.2 | 24.6 | 7.3 | 1.3 | 4.8 | 0.9 | 69.7 |
| March | 40.1 | 7.9 | 13.9 | 5.4 | 14.6 | 0.1 | 83.5 |
| April | 104.4 | 44.5 | 25.8 | 16.0 | 26.6 | 9.1 | 227.5 |
| May | 198.9 | 131.4 | 45.2 | 11.2 | 16.2 | 8.9 | 413.6 |
| June | 52.1 | 23.5 | 55.2 | 3.2 | 11.5 | 4.9 | 150.6 |
| July | 90.3 | 19.2 | 24.6 | 5.4 | 17.4 | 1.0 | 159.9 |
| August | 136.0 | 38.7 | 40.4 | 10.9 | 19.9 | 3.0 | 250.2 |
| September | 125.1 | 79.9 | 27.2 | 6.6 | 8.3 | 1.9 | 252.8 |
| October p | 94.0 | 38.4 | 38.4 | 5.0 | 21.7 | 4.2 | 207.0 |
| November p | 59.9 | 33.8 | 33.8 | 7.3 | 34.1 | 0.7 | 170.7 |
| December p | 30.6 | 17.3 | 44.2 | 4.7 | 17.4 | 0.6 | 114.7 |

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

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